United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1446
30 July 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General strongly condemns mortar attack on Spanish UNPROFOR troops in Jablenica; appeals to parties at Geneva peace talks to end war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to help bring perpetrators to justice.

- Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference meet with Bosnian Presidency in Geneva; talks to end war in Bosnia and Herzegovina continue on basis of proposals discussed yesterday.

- Special Rapporteur on human rights in former Yugoslavia warns that people in safe havens in Bosnia and Herzegovina are being drawn into "a catastrophe"; calls for urgent steps to make them secure.

- United Nations taking report on human rights abuses by UNOSOM II forces very seriously, spokesman says; action will be taken against those responsible if charges are true.

- Arusha peace talks between Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front end; agreement likely to be signed on 4 August.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has strongly condemned a mortar attack on a Spanish company serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Jablenica. One Spanish soldier was killed and 17 were wounded in the incident, which occurred early this morning.

The Secretary-General noted that it was the second time in less than a week that UNPROFOR had been the target of a vicious attack, and said it underlined the urgent need for a political solution to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He appealed to the leaders of the parties concerned to bring the Geneva peace talks to a speedy conclusion, and to help identify those who had committed the attack and to use their influence to bring them to justice. UNPROFOR was investigating the incident and would do everything in its power to establish the identity of the perpetrators, he stressed.

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For information media--not an official record

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Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, met today in Geneva with the Bosnian Presidency, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Bosnian Presidency had not rejected proposals discussed yesterday, he said, and the talks to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina were continuing on the basis of those proposals.

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Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia, has written to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali voicing fears for people living in "safe areas" in Bosnia and Herzegovina and displaced persons who have sought refuge with them. "I believe they are fast being drawn into a catastrophe, while their elementary human rights are constantly being violated," he warned.

"The purpose of establishing 'safe havens' was, inter alia, to provide displaced people with the food and medical supplies they need, in places where their security is guaranteed," Mr. Mazowiecki wrote. However, he went on to say, those supplies had become prime targets for the attacking parties. On 12 July, 12 people had been killed by direct fire from Bosnian Serb positions as they queued at a water-pump in the street in Sarajevo. Eighteen people were said to have died from mortar or sniper attacks since April 1992 while attempting to restore water supplies in the city. He also noted that the victims of the violence included relief workers, United Nations observers, drivers, interpreters and peace-keepers.

Mr. Mazoweicki stated that as much as one fifth of the food and medical supplies bound for the safe areas was failing to get through. People in Sarajevo were reported to be receiving only 60 per cent of the food they need.

Urgent steps were needed to make "safe areas" truly secure, such as the widening of their boundaries to make them economically viable, and the deployment of an adequate number of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops with appropriate guidelines for the use of defensive force. "Even when hostilities end, the 'safe havens' will need special attention and help in their transition to a post-war civil society," he concluded.

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The United Nations is taking very seriously a report concerning human rights abuses by forces of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), a spokesman for the Organization said today. Though characterizing the report -- issued by the African Rights organization -- as containing many spurious or hearsay charges, he stressed that if any charges were found to be true, action would be taken against those responsible.

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A copy of the document had been forwarded to the Secretary-General's Special Representative Admiral Howe, who was discussing it with Force Commander General Bir and the other commanders. The spokesman pointed out that some of the allegations might already be under investigation by UNOSOM II. "You will recall that similar inquiries were conducted by the United States and Canadian contingents in the past and disciplinary action was taken when wrongdoing was established," he said.

The spokesman stressed that international efforts had led to a dramatic improvement in conditions in Somalia. "Thanks to the United Nations intervention, famine has now virtually disappeared, previously hostile political factions have negotiated a cease-fire and reconciliation agreement, and life has begun to return to normal in almost all parts of Somalia," he said.

* * *

The peace talks between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) in Arusha, Tanzania, have concluded, Security Council President Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom) told correspondents today. He said an agreement would probably be signed on 4 August. The talks to end the conflict in Rwanda had been underway since 16 March, with Tanzania acting in the role of facilitator.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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2 August 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, demands that Croatian forces withdraw from Maslenica bridge area and permit deployment of UNPROFOR, as agreed.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks "almost within sight" of settlement; Constitutional Agreement for Union of Republics reached Friday; Bosnian Serb leader agrees to allow UNPROFOR troops to move into Bjelasnica area of Sarajevo's Mount Igman.

+ Secretary-General to respond shortly to letter from United States Secretary of State relating to air support for UNPROFOR.

+ Secretary-General condemns hijacking of UNRWA bus and deplores loss of life in attack on Israeli vehicles.

+ Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq installs monitoring cameras at Al Rafah and Al Yawm al Azim missile test sites; inspectors observe test firing at Al Rafah.

+ Fish Stocks Conference ends three-week session with agreement on need for new conservation regimes; delegates divided on whether to aim for new multilateral fishing convention or non-binding set of guidelines.

+ Racial Discrimination Committee meets in Geneva to discuss measures to combat discrimination; will again examine reports on situation in former Yugoslavia.

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The Security Council has demanded that Croatian forces withdraw from the Maslenica bridge area in southern Croatia, in accordance with an agreement reached on 15 and 16 July, and that they permit the deployment there of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). In a statement read out on Friday by its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), the Council warned of the serious consequences that would result from any failure to do so. It also demanded that the Krajina Serb forces refrain from entering the area.

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The Council reaffirmed its Presidential statement of 15 July, in which it urged the Croatian Government to refrain from reopening the bridge unilaterally in the absence of agreement between all the parties concerned. Such a move, the Council had said, would jeopardize the international community's efforts for confidence-building measures between the parties. It would also jeopardize efforts by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and UNPROFOR to achieve a negotiated settlement. Following that Council statement, the parties had agreed on the Croat withdrawal from the area.

* * *

Negotiations to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina are gaining momentum and a settlement is almost within sight, according to a United Nations spokesman. A Constitutional Agreement for the Union of the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will form part of the overall settlement, was reached in Geneva on Friday. A number of drafts had been discussed, and amendments approved by all three parties.

President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban had a meeting today "in which they were talking about maps", the spokesman said. Meanwhile, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, had a number of bilateral meetings.

The spokesman went on to say that Mr. Karadzic had entered into an agreement permitting United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops to move into the Bjelasnica area of Mount Igman near Sarajevo. UNPROFOR Force Commander General Jean Cot was studying the practicalities of such a move.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is studying a letter from United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher relating to the provision of air support for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General was expected to respond to that letter very shortly.

The United Nations was in constant contact with UNPROFOR Force Commander General Jean Cot regarding the necessary arrangements, the spokesman said. Earlier today, Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg had reiterated that the decision to use air power, in accordance with Security Council resolutions, rested with the Secretary-General, following necessary consultations with the Council.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned an incident in which a bus belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was hijacked this morning in Gaza Town. The bus was later crashed into vehicles belonging to the Israeli

authorities, killing one person and wounding several others. The Secretary-General deplored the loss of life and the injuries caused in the incident.

* * *

Inspectors from the United Nations Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq today observed the country's first missile test at the Al Rafah site since the recent dispute over the installation of monitoring cameras there. The inspectors photographed the test stand prior to the firing of the rocket, received answers to questions about the purpose of the test and reviewed test data afterwards.

Iraq agreed last month to observation of its missile testing programme as part of an interim solution to the crisis which arose over the Commission's plans to install monitoring cameras at the Al Rafah and Al Yawm al Azim test sites. The Commission has now installed fully operational cameras at both sites. Furthermore, plans for the installation of a back-up communications systems are well advanced.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks has completed its three-week session, with agreement on the urgent need for new conservation regimes at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels. However, delegates were divided as to whether the Conference should ultimately produce a new multilateral fishing convention or a non-binding set of guidelines.

In concluding remarks on Friday, delegations urged that States cooperate in developing conservation and management regimes encompassing the needs of both coastal and distant water fishing States. During the session, the Conference heard that the serious depletion of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks had threatened to create new confrontations among States.

The Conference will reconvene for two meetings next year -- from 14 March to 1 April and from 15 to 26 August, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

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Government measures to combat racial discrimination in the Republic of Korea, Zambia, Iran, Nigeria, Viet Nam, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Germany and Tonga will be considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its forty-third session, being held in Geneva from today until 20 August.

The Committee will meet in closed session to discuss the situation in the former Yugoslavia, and will review implementation of the Convention in Burundi, Rwanda and Papua New Guinea, where there have recently been reports of ethnic conflict. Also under consideration will be the programme of action

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for a possible third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, to begin in December.

Opening the session this morning, the Chairman of the Committee, (Luis Valencia (Ecuador), called on the 18 experts serving on the body to redouble their efforts, in view of the increase in discrimination and racially motivated violence in many regions. He also invited them to consider the conclusions of World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna last June and the way these relate to eliminating racial discrimination.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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3 August 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General writes to United States Secretary of State explaining basic United Nations positions on use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina; supports view that air strikes could help achieve aims of Security Council resolutions; NATO draws up "operational options".

+ Terrorist incidents in Cambodia increase as UNTAC troop withdrawal begins.

+ Presidents of Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia to rejoin Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks tonight; spokesman says settlement is possible, but only if Bosnian President and Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat leaders resume negotiations.

+ Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in former Yugoslavia asks Croatia to stop expelling Bosnian refugees to Bosnia and Herzegovina; says expulsions seriously violate international human rights standards.

+ Human Rights Committee reviews reports by five States parties to 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at forty-eighth session; further clarifies article on freedom of thought and belief.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has written to United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher putting forward basic positions regarding the use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General wanted to have the advice of his Special Representative before authorizing air strikes, as they would effect peace-keeping and humanitarian operations in the Republic, and the peace negotiations in Geneva.

The Secretary-General reiterated that it was his responsibility -- in consultation with the Security Council -- to initiate air strikes, and that military power was to be used for the purpose of promoting implementation of

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For information media--not an official record

relevant Council resolutions, the spokesman said. The Secretary-General supported the view that the use of air power could help to achieve the objectives of those resolutions, and shared the concerns of the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the matter.

The Secretary-General had received a very helpful and positive communication from the Secretary-General of NATO reaffirming NATO's support for the negotiations in Geneva, the spokesman continued. NATO was willing to participate in the implementation of a settlement under the authority of the Security Council. It considered the repeated violation of cease-fires to be unacceptable, and was making immediate preparations to take stronger measures. NATO had accordingly tasked its military authorities with drawing up operational options for air strikes, in close coordination with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). As soon as the military authorities had reported back to it, the NATO Council would then consider, in consultation with the United Nations, whether military action was necessary.

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There has been a disturbing increase in terrorist incidents in Cambodia, according to a United Nations spokesman. It coincides with the start of the withdrawal of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) troops. Half of the Tunisian UNTAC battalion departed yesterday and half of the Uruguayan battalion is to leave tomorrow.

On Sunday, 21 peacekeepers had been forced by soldiers of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) to evacuate their position and cross into Thailand, the spokesman said. Thai military elements had been present at the scene but had not intervened. There had been no casualties, but the NADK soldiers had taken three UNTAC vehicles and had looted the UNTAC base. A thorough investigation into the incident was underway.

Yesterday afternoon, a train travelling from Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh was attacked by a group of 30 unidentified people. The spokesman said 10 passengers reportedly were killed and at least 30 injured. Numerous other incidents of railway track destruction had occurred over the past few weeks, and earlier today mortar rounds were fired in the vicinity of Siem Reap airport.

* * *

President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, President Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia will rejoin the Bosnian peace talks in Geneva tonight, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, were due to meet privately this evening with the three Presidents, and with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The spokesman expressed the hope that President Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban would resume

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negotiations tomorrow. He said a peace settlement was possible, but only if those three parties returned to the conference table.

* * *

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, has asked Croatia to stop the expulsion of Bosnian refugees to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said in a letter to Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic that the expulsions were a serious violation of international human rights standards.

Mr. Mazowiecki said expulsions appeared to be taking place all over Croatia. On 29 July, for instance, civilian police had arrested a large number of refugees at the Kruga camp in Zagreb, including women. Later that day, the refugees had been transferred to Ljubuski, in Herzegovina. Similar incidents had been reported from refugee camps in Split, Pula, the island of Obonjan and Varazdin. Mr. Mazowiecki went on to say that he was fully aware of the difficulties confronting Croatia in providing such people with adequate protection and help. However, he expressed the hope that the Croatian Government would continue its efforts to offer humanitarian assistance to all refugees and take all measures necessary to prevent further expulsions.

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The powers of the police in Ireland, the length of precautionary detention periods in Hungary and the state of emergency in Egypt were among the issues the Human Rights Committee considered during its forty-eighth session, which concluded in Geneva last week. Reviewing reports by five States, the Committee also expressed concern over the treatment of groups like the Baha'i community in Iran, the Romany or Gypsy people and the Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

The 18-member expert body, which monitors compliance with the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, further clarified article 18 of the Covenant which deals with freedom of thought, conscience and belief. It also adopted a number of decisions relating to confidential communications from individuals who claim to have had their human rights violated.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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4 August 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General writes to Heads of State of Afghanistan and Tajikistan expressing concern about increasing hostilities in border area; urges all parties to exercise maximum restraint.

+ Special Envoy Traxler to undertake needs assessment mission to Sudan; will examine humanitarian access question and review relief activities.

+ Secretary-General says United Nations will make every effort regarding military, political and humanitarian situations in Lebanon; asks WFP and FAO to send aid to south of country; inter-agency mission expected to lead to humanitarian appeal.

+ President of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat leaders fail to meet for third day in a row at peace talks in Geneva; Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference await indication of Bosnian President's intentions.

+ Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities appeals to international community to reject partition plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says he plans to send advance observer team to Liberia, as envisaged in Cotonou Peace Agreement; United Nations will play crucial role in Agreement's implementation.

• • •

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has written to the Heads of State of Afghanistan and Tajikistan expressing his concern about increasing tension and hostilities on the border between the two countries and in the Pamir region, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General also urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to do nothing that could lead to further hostilities.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General discussed the situation yesterday with Yuliy Vorontsov, the Russian Federation's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the spokesman noted.

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Vieri Traxler, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for humanitarian affairs in the Sudan, will leave this evening for that country to conduct a needs assessment mission and to examine the question of access for humanitarian relief, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Traxler will also take an overall look at organizations and United Nations agencies and programmes working on relief activities in the Sudan.

The Secretary-General met this morning with the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, Denmark and Greece, and with the European Community delegation, to discuss the situation in the Sudan.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said the United Nations will make every possible effort on the military, political and humanitarian fronts with respect to the situation in Lebanon. The Secretary-General gave that assurance yesterday during a meeting with Lebanon's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The Secretary-General also apprised the Ambassador of talks underway between the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Lebanese Army regarding the deployment of Lebanese troops in the south of the country, according to a United Nations spokesman.

In order to facilitate the return of displaced persons to their homes, the Secretary-General has asked the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to send immediate assistance to southern Lebanon, the spokesman said. A United Nations inter-agency mission would leave for the country later this week to assess the needs of the affected population, which included some 350,000 displaced persons. The mission was expected to result in an appeal for contributions.

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For the third day in a row, no meeting has taken place in Geneva between President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, he said President Izetbegovic had met last night with President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and President Moomir Bulatovic of Montenegro to discuss "crucial map issues".

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, were waiting for an indication from President Izetbegovic as to whether he intended to resume talks with the other Bosnian parties, according to the spokesman.

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The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has appealed to the international community to reject any partition plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina "which results from aggression, intervention and massive violation of human rights". In a resolution adopted in Geneva this afternoon, the Subcommission expressed deep concern that the existing draft agreement constituted a partition on ethnic and religious grounds.

The Subcommission referred to the affirmations by the Security Council that any taking of territory by force or any practice of "ethnic cleansing" was unlawful. It called for the invalidation of any agreement obtained under extreme duress from the Bosnian Government for purposes other than an end to hostilities paving the way for a peaceful settlement based on the principles of the United Nations Charter.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said he will begin planning for the dispatch of an advance team of United Nations observers to Liberia as soon as possible, as envisaged in the Liberian Peace Agreement signed in Cotonou on 25 July. In a report on Liberia dated 2 August, the Secretary-General said the United Nations had a crucial role to play in the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Under the Agreement, hostilities were to end in Liberia on 1 August, and a Joint Cease-Fire Monitoring Committee was to be established to ensure against violations. The advance United Nations team would help the Committee pending the arrival of additional troops for ECOMOG -- the Military Observer Group of the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) -- and a larger body of United Nations observers.

The Secretary-General said that the rapid expansion of humanitarian assistance activities throughout Liberia would be essential to the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement, and appealed to the international community to help in that endeavour.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman today said that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire had been asked to halt unmonitored shipments across the border into Liberia. Shipments could resume once inspection procedures had been established to ensure that they did not include war materials. Meanwhile, the United Nations was looking for ways to ensure that halting shipments from Côte d'Ivoire would not result in an increase in starvation or suffering in Liberia.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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5 August 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in letters to Member States, says United Nations is facing unprecedented financial crisis; appeals for payment of outstanding contributions, warning that vital operations are in jeopardy.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference propose to Bosnian Presidency and Bosnian Serb leadership that main roads in and out of Sarajevo be opened to everything but military material, to ease humanitarian crisis.

+ Commission on Human Rights sends team of experts to Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to take up issue of disappearances.

+ World Food Programme to provide emergency food aid to 100,000 displaced persons in Lebanon; field assessment mission to determine needs tomorrow.

+ Special Representative in Cambodia protests broadcast by Party of Democratic Kampuchea radio encouraging Cambodians to prevent return of ethnic Vietnamese fishermen.

+ There is greater hope than ever before of a total nuclear test ban, says President of Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Conference on thirtieth anniversary of signing of Treaty.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has sent a series of letters to Member States drawing their attention to the financial crisis confronting the United Nations. He warned that unless substantial payments of outstanding contributions were made in the next month, the Organization would be unable to enter into new financial commitments, and existing operations would be jeopardized.

The Secretary-General sent one series of letters to the members of the Security Council -- France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom -- who had paid their contributions in full. He thanked them for their support and asked them

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For information media--not an official record

to encourage other Member States to pay their contributions. He sent another set of letters to Council members who had not paid their contributions, calling on them to display them commitment to the United Nations by seeking to fulfill their obligations under the Charter. He also wrote to some 150 Member States with outstanding contributions describing the current financial situation as the most serious the Organization had ever faced and urging prompt payment of their contributions.

The Secretary-General noted in the letters that the United Nations had total cash reserves of $380 million and monthly expenses of $380 million. Outstanding assessed contributions to the regular budget and to peace-keeping operations totaled $848 million and $1,193 million respectively. Troop-contributing countries were owed $360 million, and it was becoming more difficult to pay for goods and services for peace-keeping operations. He also said that the Secretariat had been making every possible effort to economize, but no longer had room to manoeuvre.

A United Nations spokesman mentioned that while some countries had budget deficits and were experiencing economic difficulties, all Members States were Charter-bound to honour their obligations to the United Nations.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, have proposed to the Bosnian Presidency and to the Bosnian Serb representatives that the main roads in and out of Sarajevo be opened to everything except military material, as a way of relieving the immediate humanitarian situation there. The spokesman for the Co-Chairmen described the proposal as a way of "reversing the strangulation of the people of Sarajevo".

In a statement issued today, he said that both sides had agreed to instruct their military commanders in today's meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group to enter into negotiations with a view to reaching an early agreement on the proposal. He pointed out that the process would have to be staged and subject to strict upholding of the ceasefire which all sides had signed.

* * *

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on human rights in the former Yugoslavia, is sending a team of experts to Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) today to take up the issue of disappearances. The Commission had previously asked the Special Rapporteur to develop proposals for a mechanism to address the subject of disappearances, in consultation with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Working Group has been dealing with cases of missing persons in over 50 countries for more than 13 years.

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The team of experts consists of Toine van Dongen from the Netherlands and two staff members from the Centre for Human Rights. Mr. van Dongen will visit Zagreb and Vukovar, in Croatia, and Belgrade, where he will meet with government officials and families of those who have disappeared. His recommendations will be taken into account in Mr. Mazowiecki's proposals on the subject of disappearances to be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its next session.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it will provide emergency food assistance to 100,000 people displaced by recent hostilities in southern Lebanon. Using stocks available in the country and local purchases, the WFP will provide 20,000 families with a total of 960 metric tons of food over the next 30 days.

The relief programme will be implemented through the Lebanese High Relief Commission and the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture. The Government of Lebanon has already released some relief assistance to the displaced populations but has appealed to the international community for further assistance. A field assessment mission will be conducted tomorrow to determine how much food is needed and for how long.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, has written to the leader of Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) protesting recent broadcasts by the Voice of the Great National Union Front of Kampuchea, in particular a programme broadcast on 18 July, encouraging Cambodians to actively prevent the return of ethnic Vietnamese fishermen to the Tonle Sap area. Mr. Akashi referred to "the numerous calls to hatred and racial violence broadcast by your radio during the pre-electoral period, as well as the repeated attacks of the NADK (National Army of Democratic Kampuchea) against Vietnamese civilians". Considering those, he wrote, tne 18 July broadcast constituted official backing by the PDK leadership of the new wave of killings which had hit that community in the past three weeks.

The Special Representative said that the problem of the influx of Vietnamese work-seekers could only be resolved through the rejection of violence, careful analysis of the problem and adoption of appropriate laws. He warned the PDK that the attitude of the international community towards it in the coming months would "depend on its will to conduct itself in a responsible fashion".

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There is greater hope than ever before of a total nuclear test ban, according to Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and President of the Amendment Conference of States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water. In a message marking the thirtieth anniversary today of the signing of the Treaty, he noted

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the anniversary was special, but because for the first time since the signing, "silence reigns at nuclear weapon test sites".

Mr. Alatas said he would be convening a special meeting of the States parties to the Treaty on 10-11 August in New York to examine the feasibility of convening a second session of the Amendment Conference later this year. If it was the will of the parties to hold such a session, he would do everything in his power, he concluded, "to ensure that it will be a fitting and propitious occasion for the nations of the world to reaffirm the pledge enshrined in the 1963 Treaty to 'seek the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons in all spheres for all time'".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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6 August 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously approves Secretary-General's proposal that advance team of up to ten United Nations military observers be deployed to Abkhazia, Georgia, to help verify compliance with cease-fire; team to be incorporated into observer mission if one is established.

+ Co-Chairman of Yugoslavia Conference, Lord Owen, warns against unilateral action by NATO in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian peace talks scheduled to resume in Geneva on Monday.

+ Establishment of war crimes tribunal on Yugoslav conflict proceeding on schedule; General Assembly to elect 11 judges and prosecutor before end of current session.

+ United Nations technical mission arrives in Liberia to arrange for implementation of Cotonou Peace Agreement; border with Côte d'Ivoire to be reopened for resumption of humanitarian shipments.

+ Jubaland Peace Accord signed by Somali factions in Kismayo; covers cease-fire, opening of Jubaland region and reunification of Kismayo.

+ Secretary-General sets up Panel of Inquiry to investigate massacre of Liberians near Harbel on 6 June; Panel will establish facts of incident and make recommendations.

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The Security Council this afternoon unanimously approved the Secretary-General's proposal that an advance team of up to ten United Nations military observers be deployed to Abkhazia, Georgia, as soon as possible to begin to help verify compliance with cease-fire as envisaged in the cease-fire agreement signed on 27 July 1993. It did so by adopting resolution 854 (1993). The mandate of the team is to expire within three months, and it is contemplated that the advance team will be incorporated into a United Nations observer mission, if such a mission is formally established by the Council.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council said it looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed observer mission, including a detailed estimate of the cost and the scope of the operation, a time-frame for its implementation and the projected conclusion of the operation.

In a letter addressed to the Council on 4 August 1993, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had informed its members that such early deployment of United Nations observers could serve "as a significant confidence-building measure by demonstrating the support of the international community for the cease-fire during its initial delicate stage".

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Lord Owen, Co-Chairman with Thorvald Stoltenberg of the International Conference on Yugoslavia, today warned against unilateral action by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He told a news conference in Geneva that it was important for military action to buttress the political process, rather than to drive it. And he stated that on the Yugoslav question, no initiatives should be taken outside the framework of the United Nations.

Lord Owen said substantial progress had been made during the current round of peace negotiations on Bosnia and Herzegovina. He cited agreements on a new constitution, and a proposal for dealing with the three United Nations safe areas in Eastern Bosnia, as well as a proposal on Central Bosnia. The deepest problem, he said, remained Sarajevo, where was still no agreement between the parties.

The Bosnian peace talks are scheduled to resume in Geneva on Monday, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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Work is proceeding on schedule for the establishment of the war crimes tribunal to deal with those responsible for atrocities committed in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, a United Nations spokesman said today. By 3 August, the statutory closing date, nominations for judges had been received from 35 States and the General Assembly would elect 11 judges before the close of its current session. A prosecutor would also be elected shortly, from a short-list of three nominees, whose names the Secretary-General had forwarded to the Security Council for consideration.

The spokesman said that discussions as to the location of the tribunal had been held between the United Nations and the Netherlands, both in New York and the Hague. The financing of the tribunal was also under consideration and was on the agenda for the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

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A United Nations technical mission with humanitarian, peace-keeping and political components has arrived in Liberia to arrange for implementation of the Liberian Peace Agreement signed in Cotonou on 25 July, according to a

United Nations spokesman. The mission will also arrange for the interim delivery of relief shipments to affected National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) territories.

Liberia's border with Côte d'Ivoire border would be reopened to allow humanitarian shipments to resume, provided that those shipments were inspected by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and/or United Nations personnel, the spokesman said. The arrangements were in line with the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement and would be in place shortly.

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One hundred and fifty-two elders and representatives of former warring factions in Somalia today signed the Jubaland Peace Accord in the southern port city of Kismayo, according to a United Nations spokesman. The signing was witnessed by some 500 people, including representatives of Somali political factions and religious leaderships. The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, headed the delegation from the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II).

The Peace Accord deals with a cease-fire and disarmament, the opening of the Jubaland region, the reunification of Kismayo and the restoration of property. It calls for the cantonment of militia forces, vocational training for former combatants, the establishment of a municipal police force and courts, and the deployment of UNOSOM II forces in every district.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the Security Council that he has established a Panel of Inquiry to investigate the massacre of Liberians near Harbel on 6 June, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Panel is composed of Amos Wako, Attorney-General of Kenya; Robert Gersony, a consultant on refugee protection and human rights and a United States national; and Ambassador Mahmoud Kassem of Egypt.

The Panel's terms of reference are, inter alia, to establish the facts and circumstances relating to the Harbel incident; to examine allegations regarding responsibility for the massacre; and to make appropriate recommendations, according to the spokesman. It will make contacts with the Interim Government of Liberia, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), the United Liberation Movement for Democracy of Liberia (ULIMO), the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), and any other relevant individuals and parties. The Panel will begin its work following consultations among its members.

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Correction:

In the Daily Highlights of Thursday, 5 August 1993, the first sentence in the second paragraph on page 2 should have read: "The Secretary-General noted in the letters that the United Nations had total cash reserves of $380 million and monthly expenses of $310 million."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1452
9 August 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council endorses efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); calls upon Yugoslav authorities to allow continuation of CSCE activities in the region.

+ Secretary-General deplores incident in Mogadishu yesterday in which four United States soldiers with UNOSOM II were killed by an explosive device; says incident will not prevent fulfillment of UNOSOM's mandate.

+ Yukio Takasu of Japan appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Controller in Department for Administration and Management, with effect from 1 September.

+ World Health Organization meeting on substance abuse finds increased level of drug abuse by women, despite general lack of reporting.

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The Security Council this afternoon endorsed the efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and called upon the Yugoslav authorities to reconsider their refusal to allow the continuation of the activities of the CSCE missions in those places. It took that step by adopting resolution 855 (1993) with 14 votes in favour, none against and China abstaining.

It also called upon the authorities of the Federal Republic to cooperate with the CSCE by taking the practical steps needed for the resumption of the activities of those missions and to agree to an increase in the number of monitors, as decided by the CSCE. It further called on the authorities in the Federal Republic to assure the monitors' safety and security, and to allow them free and unimpeded access necessary to accomplish their mission in full.

The resolution referred to letters on the matter from the Chairman-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the CSCE, in which he warned

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that the refusal of Federal Republic to allow continuation of CSCE missions in the disputed areas increased the threat to peace in the region.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today deplored the incident in Mogadishu yesterday in which four United States army soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) were killed in an explosion. They died while on a routine patrol in the southern part of the capital when their vehicle was hit by a large explosive device.

The "cowardly attack", the Secretary-General said, demonstrated the urgent need to accomplish the total disarmament of the factions and militias still holding weapons in Mogadishu and the rest of Somalia. The perpetrators of the attacks would not succeed in thwarting UNOSOM II's objectives of providing humanitarian assistance, achieving political reconciliation and re-establishing Somali political institutions. The maintenance of a secure environment throughout Somalia was indispensable for the achievement of those objectives, he said.

On instructions from the Secreatry-General, UNOSOM II was investigating the incident, the spokesman said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of Yukio Takasu, a national of Japan, as Assistant Secretary-General in the Department for Administration and Management, with effect from 1 September. Mr. Takasu will serve as Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and as Controller.

Prior to this assignment, Mr. Takasu was Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Japanese Embassy in Indonesia. From 1981 he served as First Secretary and then Councellor at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. He represented Japan at United Nations conferences and meetings, and from 1984 to 1988 he was a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

* * *

A World Health Organization (WHO) meeting in Geneva last week on the patterns of substance abuse among women reported an increasing level of drug abuse by women, according to an assessment from 20 countries. The precise scale of the problem was unknown, participants said, because women's use of psychoactive substances was often a secret practice neglected by researchers.

Those at risk, the speakers pointed out, ranged from young girls sniffing glue to women facing HIV infection from unsafe sexual behaviour or injecting heroin with contaminated equipment, and from teenagers experimenting with cannabis and amphetamines to housewives misusing sedatives and alcohol. Women who used psychoactive substances suffered problems unknown to their male

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counterparts. Female physiology made them more vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection through drug use and they were more prone to physical and sexual assaults by men who used drugs and alcohol. In addition, many women had the added burden of caring for a family and male partners who might themselves be substance abusers.

The meeting was part of a collaborative project between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse. It was held in preparation for the 1995 World Conference on Women and its findings are expected to provide the basis for a United Nations system-wide position paper on women, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1453
10 August 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously welcomes decision by Secretary-General to send a technical team to Liberia to prepare for establishment of United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and approves sending as soon as possible a 30-member advance team of military observers.

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, in report to Secretary-General, say effective Implementation Force will be vital for achieving objectives of peace agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina; they meet separately with Bosnian leaders in Geneva.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Assistant Secretary-General of Organization of American States renew appeal for humanitarian aid for Haiti; say appeal in March drew weak response.

+ Inclusion of women in South Africa's multi-party negotiations and proposed legislative changes hold hope for end to gender inequities of apartheid system, speaker told meeting to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with Women of South Africa yesterday.

+ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization establishes Educational Development Centre in Mogadishu, first of seven such centres to be set up in Somalia by end of 1994.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon unanimously welcomed the decision by the Secretary-General to send a technical team to Liberia to gather and evaluate information relevant to the proposed establishment of a United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). It did so by adopting resolution 856 (1993).

The Council also approved the dispatch to Liberia as soon as possible of an advance team of 30 military observers to participate in the work of the Joint Cease-fire Monitoring Committee, with a mandate to expire in three months. It also looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed establishment of UNOMIL, with a detailed estimate of the cost and

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scope of the operation, and ways to ensure coordination between UNOMIL and the peace-keeping forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Council called upon all parties to the conflict to respect and implement the cease-fire provided for in the Peace Agreement signed on 25 July 1993 at Cotonou, Benin, and to cooperate fully with the advance mission and ensure the safety of all United Nations personnel and all other peace-keeping and humanitarian personnel within Liberia.

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An effective Implementation Force is essential to ensure the success of a peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia stress in a report to the Secretary-General, dated 5 August 1993, on the latest round of negotiations in Geneva. The early dispatch of a force established or charged by the United Nations with assisting in implementing all key elements of such an agreement would itself offer the greatest chance of achieving the settlement objectives. "Peace now is imperative," the report concluded, "but to ensure that it is not peace at any price, the world must pay the price of a serious and successful implementation period."

In the report, the Co-Chairmen, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, also pointed out that once a Constitutional Agreement for a Union of Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina was reached, the Implementation Force would begin overseeing the separation of forces and the withdrawal of heavy weapons, facilitating the reopening of routes and the free movement of people. It would then move on to progressive demilitarization of the entire country.

It was also envisaged that the Implementation Force would have its responsibilities phased out and withdraw once free and fair elections were held, not later than two years after the signing of the Agreement.

The Co-Chairmen warned, however, that it might not be possible to negotiate a permanent solution in Sarajevo itself. Time may be needed during which the three Republics envisaged at present would learn to live and cooperate together. In the meantime, they suggested, the Security Council and the international community might consider the applicability of a temporary solution intended to last one or more years.

In a separate development, a United Nations spokesman said today that the Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav peace talks met this morning with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and discussed with him the presence of Serbian troops on Mount Igman outside Sarajevo. They also met with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and would meet later in the day with Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban. It was possible, the spokesman said, that three-way talks would be held tonight or tomorrow, depending on developments in Geneva and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, and Ambassador Christopher Thomas, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), today appealed to the international community to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of the people of Haiti. Conditions in Haiti had "continued to deteriorate", they stated, and an appeal launched in March for $62.7 million for health care, nutrition, water supply, food aid, agriculture and sanitation, had so far elicited a very weak response from donors.

Mr. Eliasson and Ambassador Thomas said they were encouraged by the signing of the Governors Island Agreement of 3 July, between the President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the Commander-in-Chief of the country's Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras. However, Mr. Eliasson and Ambassador Thomas noted, it would take some time for those positive developments to be translated into real improvements in the welfare of the Haitian people.

While this renewed appeal focuses on immediate emergency needs, an emergency economic recovery programme focusing on Haiti's longer-term needs, is under way under the auspices of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

* * *

The inclusion of women in South Africa's multi-party negotiations and the proposed repeal of gender discriminatory laws were victories for women and laid the basis for addressing the gender-based inequities in the apartheid system, a representative of the African National Congress (ANC) told a meeting held yesterday by the Special Committee against Apartheid to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa. She described the recent violence in the country as the "darkest hour before the dawn".

A representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) said 90 per cent of the violence in South Africa was orchestrated by the South African regime itself, and not by a mysterious "third force", as the international community was being led to believe.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to the gathering, said that a new South African constitution should guarantee equality and full participation for women. He urged all parties in South Africa to avoid unilateral actions and to bring an end to the violence, now that the multi-party negotiations had entered a decisive phase.

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has established an Educational Development Centre in Mogadishu, the

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first of a seven such centres it proposes to set up in Somalia by the end of 1994. A United Nations spokesman cited the centre as evidence of the "continuing positive developments in the country".

The Educational Centre has produced a complete set of Somali textbooks for primary school students. They are to be distributed throughout the country and to Somali refugees in camps in Kenya and Yemen. The spokesman said that UNESCO, working with a consortium of non-governmental organizations, planned to complete Somali-language textbooks for the first through fourth grades by September.

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